

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

JOSEPH B. LONG, #290 985,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	CASE NO. 2:20-CV-649-ECM-JTA
)	[WO]
WARDEN BUTLER, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Plaintiff filed this *pro se* 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action on September 1, 2020. On October 16, 2020, the Court entered an Order of Procedure. Doc. 9. The Order directed Defendants to file an Answer and Written Report to the Amended Complaint and directed Plaintiff to “immediately inform the court and Defendants or Defendants’ counsel of record of any change in his address.” Doc. 9 at 3, ¶7. The Order informed Plaintiff that “[f]ailure to provide a correct address to this court within ten (10) days following any change of address will result in the dismissal of this action.” *Id.*

It recently came to the Court’s attention that Plaintiff is no longer housed at the Ventress Correctional Facility. Plaintiff has thus failed to comply with the requirement that he immediately inform the Court of any new address. Accordingly, the Court entered an Order on February 4, 2021, requiring that by February 18, 2021, Plaintiff show cause why this case should not be dismissed for his failure to adequately prosecute this action. Doc. 43. The Order specifically advised Plaintiff the administration of this case could not proceed if his whereabouts remained unknown and cautioned him his failure to comply with its directives would result in a Recommendation this case be dismissed. *Id.* Plaintiff has filed no response to the February 4,

2021, Order and the time to do so has expired. The Court therefore concludes this case should be dismissed.

The Court has reviewed the file to determine whether a measure less drastic than dismissal is appropriate. *See Abreu-Velez v. Board of Regents of Univ. System of Georgia*, 248 F. App'x 116, 117–18 (11th Cir. 2007). After such review, the Court finds dismissal of this case is the proper course of action. First, the administration of this case cannot properly proceed in Plaintiff's absence. Next, it appears Plaintiff is no longer interested in the prosecution of this case as he has failed to comply with the order of the Court. Finally, under the circumstances of this case, additional effort by the Court to secure Plaintiff's compliance would be unavailing and a waste of the Court's scarce judicial resources. Consequently, the undersigned concludes this case is due to be dismissed. *See Moon v. Newsome*, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989) (holding that, as a general rule, where a litigant has been forewarned dismissal for failure to obey a court order is not an abuse of discretion.). The authority of courts to impose sanctions for failure to prosecute or obey an order is longstanding and acknowledged by Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629–30 (1962). This authority empowers the courts "to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases." *Id.* at 630–31; *Mingo v. Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op of Fla.*, 864 F.2d 101, 102 (11th Cir. 1989) (observing that a "district court possesses the inherent power to police its docket."). "The sanctions imposed [upon dilatory litigants] can range from a simple reprimand to an order dismissing the action with or without prejudice." *Id.*

Accordingly, it is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge that:

1. This case be DISMISSED without prejudice for Plaintiff's failures to comply with the orders of the Court and prosecute this action.

2. All motions be DENIED as moot.

The parties may file an objection to the Recommendation **on or before March 24, 2021**. Any objections filed must specifically identify the factual findings and legal conclusions in the Magistrate Judge's Recommendation to which a party objects. Frivolous, conclusive or general objections will not be considered by the District Court. This Recommendation is not a final order and, therefore, it is not appealable.

Failure to file a written objection to the proposed findings and recommendations in the Magistrate Judge's report shall bar a party from a *de novo* determination by the District Court of factual findings and legal issues covered in the report and shall "waive the right to challenge on appeal the district court's order based on unobjected-to factual and legal conclusions" except upon grounds of plain error if necessary in the interests of justice. 11TH Cir. R. 3-1; *see Resolution Trust Co. v. Hallmark Builders, Inc.*, 996 F.2d 1144, 1149 (11th Cir. 1993); *Henley v. Johnson*, 885 F.2d 790, 794 (11th Cir. 1989).

DONE, this 9th day of March, 2021.

/s/ Jerusha T. Adams
JERUSHA T. ADAMS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE